

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-17. Cancelled.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for sterile filling a pre-sterilized container having a filling port with a bulk sterile fluid comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing ~~an active sterile~~ a controlled sterilizing field;
- b. introducing a filling port of a pre-sterilized container into the ~~active sterile~~ sterilizing field;
- c. transferring an aliquot of a bulk sterile fluid from a supply container to the pre-sterilized container through the filling port while in the ~~active sterile~~ sterilizing field; and
- d. removing the filling port of the pre-sterilized container from the ~~active sterile~~ sterilizing field.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of sealing the filling port of the pre-sterilized container after transferring an aliquot of the bulk sterile fluid.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of transferring comprises the steps of:

- a. exposing a dispensing end attached to a supply of the bulk sterile fluid into the ~~active sterile~~ sterilizing field;
- b. breaching the sealed filling port with the dispensing end;
- c. delivering the bulk sterile fluid to the pre-sterilized container; and
- d. sealing the breached filling port.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the steps of introducing, transferring, and removing are automated.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of establishing comprises the step of creating an electron beam field with a voltage of less than 300 KeV to produce ~~an active sterile~~ a sterilizing field.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the electron beam field is established within the range of from about 30 to about 300 KeV.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the electron beam field is established within the range of from about 30 to about 100 KeV.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the electron beam field is established at about 60 KeV.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of establishing comprises the step of creating a plasma atmosphere to produce ~~an active-sterile~~ a sterilizing field.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of establishing comprises the step of using a pulsed light with ~~a large~~ an ultraviolet component to produce ~~an active-sterile~~ a sterilizing field.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of establishing comprises the step of creating a chemical vapor atmosphere to produce ~~an active-sterile~~ a sterilizing field.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of preventing the bulk sterile fluid from being affected by the ~~active-sterile~~ sterilizing field.

30. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of repeating steps (b) through (d) with another pre-sterilized container having a filling port.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of maintaining the ~~active-sterile~~ sterilizing field between consecutive pre-sterilized containers.

32. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step or repeating the steps of introducing the filling port, transferring an aliquot, and removing the filling port, using another pre-sterilized container having a filling port.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of maintaining the sterility of the dispensing end between consecutive pre-sterilized containers.

34-65. Cancelled